

Partners...



**a newsletter for the partners and providers of FREE to Know - the
Kansas Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening and Detection Program.**

April 2003

News from the Corner

It's not too late to sign up for the annual Partner's Conference to be held April 9-10, Manhattan Holidome! Get your registration in today to reserve your spot. We're excited about this opportunity to provide information about this program and continue our partnership with you.

Registration is \$85 and limited registration will be available at the door (however, meals cannot be guaranteed for on-site registration.) Exhibitor space is still available, please call 785-296-1207 for more information.

Janet Neff, Director, Cancer Prevention and Control Program

Provider Update

As of March, 2003, we have 87 FREE to Know providers who work with nearly 200 subcontractors to provide screening services to over 8,000 of the 28,000 women eligible for services. This program diagnosed 36 women with breast cancer last year, thanks to the efforts of the regional nurses and lay health workers in recruiting eligible women, and the clinics who provide such important services.

We appreciate the efforts of our partners in the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, for working closely with the FREE to Know Program to provide a medical card to women diagnosed with cancer. Since the beginning of the Kansas Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act, Medicaid has provided services to nearly 50 women who were diagnosed through the FREE to Know Program.

Program Manual

A recently revised version of the Program Manual with FREE to Know policies, guidelines and other information is now available. Pick up your copy at the annual conference, or call Crystal at 785-296-1207 to order one.

Cindy Hasvold, RN

Reimbursement Fee Schedule

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) worked with Congress for many months in an effort to increase Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates after an apparent error in calculating rates resulted in a reduction. Congress has acted, the error was corrected and Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates have, for the most part, increased slightly.

Based on the new rates, the new Reimbursement Fee Schedule was mailed to FREE to Know providers. Most fees reflect a small increase.

If you have not received the revised fee schedule, please contact your regional nurse, or contact KDHE toll free at 1-877-277-1368.

Jan Lyle, RN

Insurance Payments and Refunds

It is increasingly difficult to correct billing after providers receive insurance payments. Please bill an insurance company **first** before billing FREE to Know for services, then attach a copy of the Explanation of Benefits to the form. We continue to be the 'payer of last resort.' Your cooperation is appreciated!

Client Forms

Just a reminder: Please submit your forms with complete information and in a timely manner. Toni, our Billing Specialist, has established a billing timeline to ensure that all services are paid quickly. Our program goal is to have bills paid and to you within three weeks after they are received at the state office. However, if forms are missing information, your payment may be delayed.

The grant period from October 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003 will close August 15, 2003. All bills for services between these dates should be submitted by August 15, 2003. Thank you for submitting your bills on time, so that we can reimburse you quickly!

New Income Guidelines

At this time each year, the federal government issues new guidelines for the Federal Poverty Level. Based on these figures, new household income guidelines were established for FREE to Know (FTK) clients. FTK uses guidelines based on 250% of the Federal Poverty Level; other eligibility criteria remain the same (women age 40-64 who do not have insurance or have high unmet deductibles.) Brochures will be available to regional nurses as soon as they are printed. The new income guidelines are as follows:

Family Size	Household Income up to:
1	\$22,450
2	\$30,300
3	\$38,150
4	\$46,000
5	\$53,850
6	\$61,700
7	\$69,550
8	\$77,400

FTK does not require income documentation.

Focus on...

Southwest Kansas. In each issue of **Partners...** we'll focus on one region to highlight that region's achievements - beginning with the southwest.

SW Kansas has approximately 5,000 eligible women and as of January 1, 2003 services were provided to nearly 1,700 women. SW Kansas is fortunate to have the United Methodist Mexican American Ministries (UMMAM) administer the FREE to Know program with Marian Hunter, RN, as Regional Nurse, along with two lay health workers, Maria Elena Terrazas and Mari Stadick who provide creative and informative methods of recruiting women for the program.

SW Kansas is unique with a high non English speaking population which creates interesting challenges for the program. They have developed special Bingo games, provided displays at discount and grocery stores and churches among other outreach efforts.

Each region is unique in population and issues facing women. Thanks to UMMAM for their outstanding services and adaptability in the FTK Program through a creative combination of recruitment projects.

Questions? Call the Regional Nurses

Northwest - Darleen Bradford, RN - 785-623-5352

North Central - Lynette Blomberg, ARNP - 785-452-6361

Northeast - Maggie Brown, RN - 785-573-6733

Southwest - Marian Hunter, RN - 620-275-5302

South Central - Carmillia Adams, RN - 316-660-7332

Southeast - Paula Gilmore, RN - 620-235-7136

or call the Breast and Cervical Cancer toll free hotline at 1-877-277-1368

Cancer Prevention and Control Program
Bureau of Health Promotion
Kansas Department of Health and Environment
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 230
Topeka, Kansas 66612
264-32

